Resolutions passed in UN General Assembly's Special Session on HIV/ AIDS

798. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the outcome and the resolutions passed in the UN General Assembly's Special Session on HIV/AIDS held during June 24-27, 2001;

(b) the details of the proposals put forth by India; and

(c) the details of the discussion held on the proposals of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) In the UN General Assembly's Special Session on HIV/AIDS held during 25-27th June, 2001, a declaration of commitment on HIV/AIDS was adopted. India is a signatory to this declaration. The detailed declaration is given in the Annexure *[See* Appendix 193, Annexure No. II].

In this regard, a statement was made by Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Member of Parliament (MP) and leader of opposition on 26th June, 2001 at this Special Session. The detailed statement is given in the Annexure. *[See* Appendix 193, Annexure No. II]

Sale of spurious medicines

† 799. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that spurious medicines are being sold in most parts of the country thereby risking the life of common consumer;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take some specific steps to check this business effectively;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) Yes, Sir. There is concern over reports that medicines of questionable quality are being sold in the country taking the name of reputed brand names.

(b) and (c) Enforcement of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereof is done by State Drugs Control Authorities. The Drugs Controller General (India) has advised the State Drugs Controller to take the following measures for curbing the incidence of spurious drugs:

(i) To constitute/reactivate State Drug Advisory Committees in which various trade and industry association as well as consumer association should find representation.

(ii) To establish separate intelligence-cum-legal machinery with police assistace.

(iii) To provide training to selected Officials of Drug Control Administration in the modalities of intelligence work prosecution etc. in respect of Spurious/Counterfeit drugs.

(iv) To ensure speedy analysis of drugs samples by establishing own state level drug testing facilities.

(v) To be cautious while approving licences for drug products, to ensure that "look-alike" products are not encouraged.

(vi) To develop efficient communication facilities and recall procedures.

(vii) To undertake surveillance of suspected dealers.

(viii) To engage experienced counsel for fighting spurious drug cases.

(ix) To regularly interact with the Pharmaceutical Industry and ensure their co-operation.

(x) To collect survey samples under National Survey Quality Evaluation of Drug (NSQED) programme.

(xi) To ensure manufacture of quality drugs/medicines in the country including stipulation of Good Manufacturing Practices as a statutory requirements under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act., 1940.

In addition to the above:—

1. the All India Organisation of Chemist and Druggist Association (AIOCD) holds National Pharmacy Weeks from time to time to creat awareness among the public. Do's and Don't for consumers are also published.

2. The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has also constituted on July 18, 2001 a Committee under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services (DGHS) to go into all aspects of the menace of spurious drugs and suggest remedial measures in the said matter. The composition of the Committee has Shri Murli Deora, Ex MP, State Licensing Authorities of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Bihar, Kerala, besides 3 representatives of MNCs, representatives of IDMA, OPPI, AIOCD etc. The committee has been constituted with a view to combating the menace of spurious drugs which needs to be tackled through the collective efforts of the Pharma Industry, Trade and the Regulatory Authorities.

(d) Does not arise in view of parts (b) and (c) above.

Imbalance in male and female ratio

800. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that imbalance in male and female ratio has been noticed during Census 2001 in certain States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to ban sex determination tests throughout the country to check such imbalance?